In the Claims:

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application, and the status of each is listed below.

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of searching a plurality of self-describing, structured documents, said documents including document fields, the method including:

providing a graphical user interface including

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said path specifications identifying nodes to be tested against completed value specifications;

receiving the selected document type and the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications; and

searching a subset of the self-describing, structured documents based on the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications, the subset including documents of the selected document type.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the path specifications are compliant with any version of an XPath standard.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the self-describing, structured documents are compliant with any version of an XML standard.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the self-describing, structured documents are compliant with any version of an XML standard.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

8. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of searching a plurality of self-describing, structured documents, said documents including document fields, the method including:

providing a graphical user interface including

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type; and

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields;

receiving the selected document type and the completed value specifications and document field identifiers corresponding to the completed value specifications;

looking up path specifications corresponding to the document field identifiers, said paths specifications identifying nodes to be tested against completed value specifications; and

searching a subset of the self-describing, structured documents based on the completed value specifications and the corresponding path specifications, the subset including documents of the selected document type.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the path specifications are compliant with any version of an XPath standard.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the self-describing, structured documents are compliant with any version of an XML standard.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the self-describing, structured documents are compliant with any version of an XML standard.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

15. (Currently amended) A method of specifying where to search among a plurality of self-describing, structured documents, said documents having document types and including document fields, the method including:

displaying a graphical user interface including

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type; and

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields;

the graphical user interface further including, as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes in the documents to be tested against completed value specifications;

receiving from a user the selected document type and the completed value specifications; and

transmitting to a server the selected document type and the completed value specifications and the path specifications corresponding to the completed value specifications.

16. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented graphical ~~computer~~ user interface, including:

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes of a self-describing, structured document to be tested against completed value specifications.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the path specifications are compliant with any version of an XPath standard.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the self-describing, structured documents are compliant with any version of an XML standard.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the self-describing, structured documents are compliant with any version of an XML standard.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the graphical user interface is a character string compliant with any version of an HTML standard.

23. (Currently amended) A method of providing a searchable data base of self-describing, structured documents, including:

loading a set of document field and path specification pairs, said path specifications identifying nodes of self-describing, structured documents to be indexed and searched;

indexing portions of the documents corresponding to the document field and path specification pairs; and

providing a graphical user interface based on the set, including

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

as non-displaying fields, one or more path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes of the documents to be tested against completed value specifications.

24. (Currently amended) A method of providing a searchable data base of self-describing, structured documents, including:

loading a set of document type and path specification pairs, said path specifications identifying nodes of documents to be indexed and searched;

indexing portions of the documents corresponding to the document type and path specification pairs; and

providing a graphical user interface including

a document type selection filter;

one or more document field selection filters, context sensitive to a selected document type;

one or more value specification fields, context sensitive to the document fields; and

as non-displaying fields, one or more aliases to path specifications corresponding to the document fields and to the value specification fields, said paths specifications identifying nodes of the documents to be tested against completed value specifications.